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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.



Office Action Summary 10/040,648									
Examiner			Application No.	Applicant(s)					
Huyen Vo -The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address Period for Reply A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION. A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION. If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) eavy, a reply within the saturatory information of their (30) days will be considered timely. If the period for reply specified source, the maintern statutory period will seption (4) (A) (MONTES from the mailing date of this communication. If the period for reply specified source, the maintern statutory period will seption (4) (MONTES from the mailing date of this communication. If the period for reply specified source, the maintern statutory period will seption (4) (MONTES from the mailing date of this communication, even if timely lifed, may reduce shy seamed patent time adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.70(t)). Status 1) Responsive to communication(s) filled on 07 January 2002. 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final. 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under Ex partie Quayle, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213. Disposition of Claims 4) Claim(s) 1-12 is/are pending in the application. 4) Claim(s) 1-12 is/are pending in the application. 4) Claim(s) 1-12 is/are objected to by the Examiner. 5) Claim(s) 1-12 is/are objected to by the Examiner. 6) Claim(s) 1-12 is/are objected to by the Examiner. 7) Claim(s) 1-12 is/are objected to by the Examiner. 7) Claim(s) 1-12 is/are objected to by the Examiner. 8) The specification is objected to by the Examiner. 10) The drawing(s) filled on 07 January 2002 is/are: a) Secreted of the drawing(s) by the Examiner. 10) The above claim(s) 1-12 is/are objected to by the Examiner. 10) The captor of the priority documents have been rec			10/040,648	ENGELSBERG E	ET AL.				
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2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) Paper No(s)/Mail Date 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) 6) ☐ Other:	2) Notice of 3) Information	Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PT on Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or F	O-948) Paper N PTO/SB/08) 5) Notice of	No(s)/Mail Date of Informal Patent Application (PTG)	O-152)				

Art Unit: 2655

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

- 1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:
 - (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.
- 2. Claims 1-2, 4-6, 8-9, and 11-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Huang et al. (US Patent No. 6593936) in view of Coorman et al. (US Patent No. 6665641).
- 3. Regarding claim 1, Huang et al. disclose a method for upgrading a data stream of multimedia data, said data stream comprising features with textual description, said textual description is interpreted and synthesized into spoken voice (*col. 10, lines 1-67*). Huang et al. fail to specifically disclose the method comprising including a set of phonetic translation hints in the data stream in addition to the textual description, and wherein said phonetic translation hints specify the phonetic transcription of parts or words of the textual description.

However, Coorman et al. teach the method comprising including a set of phonetic translation hints in the data stream in addition to the textual description, and wherein said phonetic translation hints specify the phonetic transcription of parts or

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words of the textual description (col. 9, lines 1-56 and also referring to the XPT section

on col. 10, lines 20-55).

Since Huang et al. and Coorman et al. are analogous art because they are from

the same field of endeavors, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the

art at the time of invention to modify Huang et al. by incorporating the teaching of

Coorman et al. in order to enhance speech quality.

4. Regarding claim 2, Huang et al. fail to disclose the method according to claim 1,

wherein each of said phonetic translation hints is followed by a word and said phonetic

transcription of said word. However, Coorman et al. further teach that each of said

phonetic translation hints is followed by a word and said phonetic transcription of said

word (col. 9, lines 19-25).

Since Huang et al. and Coorman et al. are analogous art because they are from

the same field of endeavors, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the

art at the time of invention to modify Huang et al. by incorporating the teaching of

Coorman et al. in order to enhance speech quality.

5. Regarding claims 4-5, the modified Huang et al. further disclose the method

according to claim 1, wherein said phonetic translation hints are embedded in a data

stream associated with textual type descriptors (col. 5, lines 11-67), and wherein said

MPEG data stream is an MPEG-7 data stream (col. 5, lines 11-67).

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6. Regarding claim 6, Huang et al. fail to specifically disclose the method according to claim 1, further comprising referring to an alphabet in a predetermined format for representation of phonetic transcription information. However, Coorman et al. further teach the step of referring to an alphabet in a predetermined format for representation of phonetic transcription information (*col. 9, lines 1-25*).

Since Huang et al. and Coorman et al. are analogous art because they are from the same field of endeavors, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to modify Huang et al. by incorporating the teaching of Coorman et al. in order determine/select appropriate phonetic data to represent the text.

7. Regarding claim 8, Huang et al. fail to disclose the method according to claim 1, wherein said phonetic translation hints include a limited number of phonemes.

However, Coorman et al. further teach that the phonetic translation hints include a limited number of phonemes (*col. 10, lines 1-17*).

Since Huang et al. and Coorman et al. are analogous art because they are from the same field of endeavors, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to modify Huang et al. by incorporating the teaching of Coorman et al. in order reduce processing time.

8. Regarding claim 9, the modified Huang et al. fail to disclose the method according to claim 8, wherein said phonemes are represented with a binary fixed length or variable length code. However, since the system in both Huang et al. and Coorman

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et al. is digital, phonemes must be represented by binary in either fixed/variable length.

The advantage of this is to facilitate storage and recovering of data in digital system.

- 9. Regarding claim 11, the modified Huang et al. disclose the method according to claim 1, further comprising storing said phonetic translation hints in a text-to-speech system to better identify corresponding elements of the textual description (*referring claim 1*), but fail to disclose the step of storing said phonetic translation hints in a text-to-speech system to better identify corresponding elements of the textual description. However, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to include this step in speech recognition system in order to reduce the load on speech recognizer.
- 10. Regarding claim 12, Huang et al. further disclose the method according to claim 11, wherein the phonetic translation hints together with the corresponding elements of the textual description are implemented in text-to-speech interfaces, in which said textual description is used in combination with phonetic information for search or filtering of information (*figure 9*).
- 11. Claim 3 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Huang et al. (US Patent No. 6593936) in view of Coorman et al. (US Patent No. 6665641), as applied to claims 1 and 2, and further in view of Carter et al. (US Patent No. 6600814).

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12. Regarding claim 3, the modified Huang et al. fail to disclose a method according to claim 1 or 2, wherein each of said phonetic translation hints with said phonetic transcription is valid for at least a portion of said textual description without requiring repetition of said phonetic transcription for each occurrence of a word, for which the phonetic transcription is given, in said textual description. However, Carter et al. teach that each of said phonetic translation hints with said phonetic transcription is valid for at least a portion of said textual description without requiring repetition of said phonetic transcription for each occurrence of a word, for which the phonetic transcription is given, in said textual description (*col. 4, lines 1-23*).

Since the modified Huang et al. and Carter et al. are analogous art because they are from the same field of endeavors, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to further modify Huang et al. by incorporating the teaching of Carter et al. in order to reduce the load on the text-to-speech synthesizer.

- 13. Claims 7 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Huang et al. (US Patent No. 6593936) in view of Coorman et al. (US Patent No. 6665641), as applied to claim 1, and further in view of Sharman (US Patent No. 5682501).
- 14. Regarding claim 7, the modified Huang et al. fail to disclose the method according to claim 6, wherein said alphabet is an international phonetic alphabet or

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SAMPA. However, Sharman teaches that the alphabet is an international phonetic alphabet (col. 8, lines 1-9).

Since the modified Huang et al. and Sharman are analogous art because they are from the same field of endeavors, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to further modify Huang et al. by incorporating the teaching of Sharman in order to synthesize speech.

15. Regarding claim 10, the modified Huang et al. fail to disclose the method according to claim 9, wherein coding of said phonemes takes into account statistics of the phonemes. However, Sharman further teaches that coding of said phonemes takes into account statistics of the phonemes (col. 8, lines 28-47).

Since the modified Huang et al. and Sharman are analogous art because they are from the same field of endeavors, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to further modify Huang et al. by incorporating the teaching of Sharman in order to enhance accuracy in determining phonemes.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Huyen Vo whose telephone number is 703-305-8665. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F, 9-5:30.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Doris To can be reached on 703-305-4827. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Examiner Huyen X. Vo

December 15, 2004

SUSAN MCFADDEN PRIMARY EXAMINER